

Trip Report - COR 26 Sept 1958 COR 0161 - CFQ, DD/O

Agreement reached with Col. Wm. Sheppard at BMD on drafting an ops order for formalizing relationship and control procedures between Proj Hqs, BMD and Palo Alto Control Center. (L/C Mathison was Cdr PACC). Neither Sheppard nor Mathison took any exception to position that Proj Hqs shld have complete opno control on timing of launches and target wx considerations. This point also accepted by LMSC (Jim Plummer).

Structure of PACC for controlling COR launchings & biomedical ones (chart -- xerox).

CFQ more optimistic re air snatch of capsule after this meeting and discussions with engineer in charge of recovery and the Cdr of the C-119 squadron and his ops officer who wld be responsible for the air snatch. There are to be 9 a/c and 9 crews, each consisting of pilot, co-pilot, engineer, navigator, reel operator and 4 boom operators. Crews qualified by training together--trg at Edwards--most of crews commanders were in the 119-L program.

Critical aspect of recovery was ability of radar in the RC-121 to pick up the package on radar and vector the C-119 into position for visual pick up. Impact area will be rectangular 50 x 225 n.m.; divided into five smaller rectangles 50 x 45 n.m.

BMD a/o PACC arrange for use of PMR and for USN down-range telemetry ship a/o surface ships when needed.

Handling of recovered pod

LMSD designing hermetically sealable container to go aboard each recovery craft. Itek wants condition of recovered pod to remain status quo until delivered to Eastman for processing. Recovery crew must therefore seal capsule inside container as soon as picked up.

Container to be escorted to EKC by a Project Security Courier. USAF to provide fast transport for most expeditious delivery.

C ommo links: An admin link in the Palo Alto area not considered necessary by Mathison, Plummer and [redacted]-felt monthly mtgs and phone calls wld suffice. [redacted] felt and CFQ agreed, that phone calls too frequent, too expensive and insecure. Space for commo unit available at [redacted] the PACC area. Plummer preferred it in PACC so Mathison is providing space in his control center. [redacted]

Opnl target date for commo link 1 Dec 1958. [redacted] will ck rqmt. Work order thru Geary's office in same manner as installation at BMD.

NRO review(s) completed

COR - 26 Sept 1958



At mtgs on W/C recently: COR firing sched slipped a month which was not unexpected; first firing now set for Apr 1959; over-all COR progress has been good. Major problem at present appears Naval support for recovery system plus several massive financial support matters.

30 Sept 1958 - SmtgMin.



RMB said ARPA had raised questions on COR of what type reqmts COR is intended to fulfill and what priorities are. Basic question is one of pioneer recon vs refined intel. Original concept was pioneer recon was required first (which would mean in CORONA case a 6 inch focal length camera to be followed later by a more refined camera system using 36-inch focal length. RMB commented since it is generally agreed that a satellite is not the way to do rapid tactical recon which depends on favorable weather perhaps the basic premise of COR needs to be re-examined. Asked [redacted] to undertake this study and suggested later it might be considered by ARC or a jt committee of CIA and AF reps.

*See
log sheet
above*

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COR - 9 Oct 58



Financial crisis alluded to in recent weeks appears to be better. Cost of COR firings had apparently been jacked up by addition of many costs not directly attributable to COR itself. RMB noted CIA interest in and support to COR wld most probably continue.

[redacted] said he had secured the concept paper and ops plan for WS 117L and wld proceed to prepare a COR ops concept paper to circulate.

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RMB discussed briefly his recent involvement with BMD and ARPA and pointed out that differences in opinion, both professional and admin between them made a difficult program that much more so. Appears possible that biomed shots under COR program may be dropped and 6-inch pioneer version of 117L may be eliminated. COR review mtg will be held in Boston 28 Oct and 16-18 mtg in Palo Alto.

Air Weather Service: Col. Norman Peterson, Cdr. and Maj. James R. Smith briefed on COR; Maj. Smith to give WX support to COR in a routine and overt manner. 12-13 October 1958 at Scott AFB, Ill. by TMA.